



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held June 1, 2004, the Board took the following action:

2

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“On January 30, 2004, President Bush signed his Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Proposal, which includes funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The proposed budget would cut \$1.9 billion from HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, which is administered by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles.

“The HCV program is the Federal Government's major strategy for assisting low and very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. The program increases affordable housing choices for low and very low-income families by allowing participants to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

“The proposed budget cut to the HCV program will drastically affect all 20,271 families currently on the program, with the most severe effects on the very low-income households that currently receive housing assistance through the Housing Authority.

“The President's Budget Proposal will cause:

- The possible cancellation of housing assistance for many families receiving assistance through the HCV program;
- The Housing Authority to select low-income families over very low-income families for assistance, because the very low-income families require a higher subsidy, which the Housing Authority will not be able to provide due to the large funding cuts;

(Continued on Page 2)

2 (Continued)

- Higher rent payments by families remaining in the HCV program, families who can least afford an increase;
- Private landlords to be less willing to participate in the program if subsidies are eliminated, reduced, or unreliable, thereby severely reducing the amount of affordable housing in Los Angeles County; and
- Fewer vouchers available for families who have been waiting for years to receive needed housing assistance.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Go on record in opposition to the President’s Proposed Budget pertaining to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, and any other efforts that would weaken the Housing Authority’s ability to effectively administer the HCV program;
2. Instruct the County’s Legislative Advocates to actively work for the defeat of the President’s Fiscal Year 2005 Budget proposal as it pertains to the HCV program; and
3. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to the California Congressional Delegation opposing the President’s Fiscal Year 2005 Budget proposal as it pertains to the HCV program.

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“My understanding is that the 2005 Federal Budget does not anticipate increases next year for Section 8 Housing. In Los Angeles County, our housing market is extremely expensive and we have seen significant increases in rental costs from year to year.

“For clarification, the \$1.9 billion figure would be the costs to fund current vouchers and to keep the current number of housing vouchers nationally.”

(Continued on Page 3)

2 (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a suggestion that Supervisor Burke's motion be amended to also request Congress to appropriate sufficient funding to fully fund all currently authorized housing vouchers under HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program. Supervisor Burke accepted Supervisor Knabe's amendment

Supervisor Burke's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, was unanimously carried.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel

Letter sent to:

- Each Member, California Congressional Delegation